

ALDRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL
REPORT

of

Public Health Conditions

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year Ending 31st December 1959



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For the Year Ending 31st December 1959

by

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Medical Officer of Health

and

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Chief Public Health Inspector

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Chief Public Health Inspector :

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Whole-time Officer.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

A. MERCER, M.A.P.H.I.,

W. K. TOWNEND, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk :

MISS B. M. MOORE.

Rodent Operative/Handyman :

C. F. MORRIS.

TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-fifth Annual Report on the Public Health conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1959, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/60 of the 8th January, 1960.

Area.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

Population.

The estimated home population at mid-summer 1959 was 45,230 (an increase of 3,060 from the previous year). This gives a population of 4.87 per acre.

Inhabited Houses.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books at 31/12/59 was 13,659, an increase of 1,047 from the previous year.

Rateable Value.

The Rateable Value was £467,747 and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £1,832 for the year 1959-60.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the population are:—Brickmaking, mining, agricultural; heavy industries are now well established. The district is also largely residential.

Vital Statistics.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

LIVE BIRTHS:

		Males		Females		Totals
Legitimate	...	498	...	462	...	960
Illegitimate	...	7	...	12	...	19
		—		—		—
		505	...	474	...	979
		—		—		—

Of these 979 births, 454 were registered locally, the remaining 525 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 46.3 per cent. of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is more than the percentage for last year (viz.: 44.4).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The crude live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 21.64 and the corrected live birth rate 19.04—the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 16.5 for 1959.

For 1958 the crude and corrected live birth rates were 19.18 and 17.07 respectively.

Illegitimate Birth Rate—per 1,000 live births was 19.40.

Still Birth Rate—17 still births (males 7 and females 10) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 17.07 (or 0.37 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 20.7. The still birth rate for 1958 was 25.30.

Death Rate—273 deaths (males 166, females 107).

The crude death rate was 6.03 and the corrected death rate 10.49 per 1,000 of the population—the latter can be compared with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 11.6.

The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F's.)—used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have been amended and are now 0.88 and 1.74 respectively as compared with 0.89 and 1.69. This means a further lowering of the crude birth rate and an increase of the crude death rate, and takes into account the fact that as the district rapidly develops, the number of residents in the younger age groups annually increases. In other words the A.C.F's. make an approximate allowance for the way the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the *crude* rates for England and Wales, or with the corresponding *corrected* rates for any other area.

In addition, the death rate A.C.F. is now adjusted specifically to take account of any “residential institutions” in the area.

One hundred and twenty one deaths were transferred into the district and ten were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate—19 infants under one year of age died (of these, 15 were under one week of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 19.40 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 22.0 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

No illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer, etc.—27 deaths resulted from malignant neoplasms and included in these were 10 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Details of persons normally resident in the Aldridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) continue to be forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Again, no death was due to Diphtheria, and 13 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities—The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood, etc.

During the year reports on 2 swabs from throats, etc., and 51 specimens of faeces were received, 52 of which were negative. Ten specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, and all were negative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority:—

Ambulance Service.	Infant Welfare Centres.
Home Help Service.	Ante-Natal Clinics.
Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics).	

Laboratory Services—The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 377), Director Dr. E. M. Mackay-Scollay (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis—County Analyst A. Houlbrooke, Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel.: Stafford 578).

Hospitals—Those chiefly used are: The General, the Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall; the Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation—Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox—Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Venereal Disease—Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis—Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

WATER.

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R. H. Taylor, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer-in-Chief, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1959:—

1. The water supply to the Urban District Council of Aldridge has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is derived mainly from one pumping station (Bourne Vale) within, and six outside the Authority's boundaries. A proportion of water of surface origin is also supplied to parts of the district.

Regular and frequent samples both bacteriological and chemical, are examined from the pumping stations. Bacteriological samples of the water prior to chlorination are also examined where possible.

During 1959, 52 samples from Bourne Vale Pumping Station were all satisfactory.

215 samples were examined from Barr Beacon Reservoirs of which 208 were free from coliform bacteria.

12 samples from the Waterman's house, Aldridge, were all free from coliform bacteria. The average chemical results for 1959 of these samples were:—

pH	...	...	...	...	7.4			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	...	...	...	...	135	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	...	...	...	...	25.0	..	..	..
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	Trace	..	..	..
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	Trace	..	..	..
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	...	...	...	...	7.0	..	..	..
Oxygen absorbed								
(3 hr at 20°C)	...	...	...	...	.12	..	..	..
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	130	..	..	..
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	104	..	..	..
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	234	..	..	..
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	359	..	..	..
Iron (Fe)	...	...	...	...	.01	..	..	..
Manganese (Mn)	...	...	...	...	Nil	..	..	..
Calcium (Ca)	...	...	...	...	87.3	..	..	..
Sulphate (SO ₄)	...	...	...	...	76.2	..	..	..
Manganese (Mg)	...	...	...	...	3.5	..	..	..
Sulphate (SO ₄)	...	...	...	...	76.2	..	..	..
Zinc (Zn)	...	...	...	...	Nil	..	..	..
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	...	...	...	...	Nil	..	..	..
Free Cl	...	...	...	...	.03	..	..	..

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, all 12 samples from the Waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

5. The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1959, was 13,723. This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the district has been most satisfactory. There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection and disposal service is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor.

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year 1959: —

Erected by Local Authority		Otherwise	
Erected during 1959	In course of erection at end of 1959	Erected during 1959	In course of erection at end of 1959
256	363	804	517
TOTALS: Erected during 1959		...	... 1,060
In course of erection at end of 1959			880

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

Slum Clearance.

The following houses were demolished during the year: —

Aldridge Ward	...	...	15
Great Barr Ward	...	...	3
Heath End and Pelsall Ward			76
Rushall Ward	...	...	42
			136

SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accomodation.

The arrangements for admissions of infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

Schools.

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

Diphtheria.

Again, no case of diphtheria was notified during 1959.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not materially altered, the estimated age groups at 30th June (when the estimated total population was 45,230), were as follows:—

0—4 Age Group	...	...	4,453
5—14 Age Group	...	...	7,824

For the previous year these figures were 4,152 and 7,295 respectively.

The following information has been given by Dr. C. E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer; in respect of the Aldridge Urban District.

Age at 31.12.59 (i.e. born in year ...)	Under 1 1959	1—4 1955-58	5—9 1950-54	10—14 1945-49	Total under 15
(a) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955-1959. ...	64	2,151	1,746	1,634	5,595
(b) Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954, or earlier	—	—	770	1,835	2,605
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Booster all ages	
Immunised during 1958	610	73	683	125	

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Total number of immunisations carried out during year ... 511

Small Pox Vaccinations

Total number of vaccinations carried out during year ... 477
revaccinations ... 40

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The vaccination scheme now includes children over 6 months of age, persons under 40 years of age, expectant mothers and certain other persons at special risk—such as Nurses, Public Health Inspectors, Doctors etc. The vaccination figures for individual County Districts are not available, as the records are kept in a form most convenient for the making returns for the whole of the area. The total number of persons in the area who had completed a primary course at 31st December, 1959 was, 32,969, the number of boosters given was 6,658 and the estimated population of the area was 122,200 including the Aldridge Urban District at 45,230.

I am grateful to Dr. Jamison for the above statistics.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Disease	Total cases notified after correction
Diphtheria	—
Scarlet Fever	72
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Pneumonia	29
Meningococcal Infection	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
Dysentery	5
Measles (excluding Rubella)	624
Whooping Cough	35
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—
„ „ (Non-Paralytic)	—
Erysipelas	1
Food Poisoning	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—
„ „ (Post-Infectious)	—

**ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES
(AFTER CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND
WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:—**

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Polio- myelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Mening: Infection
			Para.	Non. Para.				
0—1 year ...	—	1	—	—	22	—	—	—
1—2 years ...	1	2	—	—	62	—	—	—
2—3 years ...	4	7	—	—	89	—	—	—
3—4 years ...	6	3	—	—	72	—	—	1
4—5 years ...	9	4	—	—	89	—	1	1
5—9 years ...	36	18	—	—	279	—	4	—
10—14 years ...	12	—	—	—	6	—	—	—
15—24 years ...	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
25+ ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	72	35	—	—	624	—	5	2
WARDS								
Aldridge ...	30	10	—	—	162	—	—	—
Great Barr ...	1	3	—	—	24	—	—	—
Pelsall ...	7	2	—	—	133	—	—	—
Pheasey ...	6	5	—	—	22	—	—	2
Rushall ...	19	4	—	—	142	—	5	—
Streetly ...	9	11	—	—	141	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	72	35	—	—	624	—	5	2

AGE GROUPS	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Encephalitis	Food Poisoning
0—4 years ...	5	—	—	2	—	—	—
5—14 years ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44 years ...	9	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—64 years ...	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	29	1	—	2	—	—	—
WARDS							
Aldridge ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Barr ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelsall ...	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pheasey ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
Rushall ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streetly ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	29	1	—	2	—	—	—

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following Table shows the attack rate of certain infectious diseases notified during the year 1959, per 1,000 of the population.

	Cases	Rate
Scarlet Fever ...	72	1.59
Whooping Cough ...	35	0.77
Pneumonia ...	29	0.64
Measles ...	624	13.79

TUBERCULOSIS

Sixty-four cases of tuberculosis (See Table) were entered on the Register, 60 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary.

Twenty-nine cases resided in Aldridge, 7 in Rushall, 4 in Pelsall, 12 in Pheasey, 4 in Streetly and 8 in Great Barr.

Fourteen of these 64 cases were notified from Institutions and 27 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A" as follows:—

Inwards Transfers	22
First notification after death ...	3
Restored to Register	2
	—
	27
	—

The 22 cases transferred into the District came to reside as follows:—

Pheasey 5, Aldridge 12, Gt. Barr 1, Streetly 2 and Rushall 2.

There were 267 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/59 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr) as follows:—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Male		Female	Male		Female
129	...	116	11	...	11
(5.90 per 1,000 population)					

There were 18 cases of tuberculosis in St. Margaret's Hospital at 31/12/59 as follows:—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Male		Female	Male		Female
16	...	1	1	...	—
(12.4 per 1,000 in St. Margaret's Hospital)					

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year, for the whole of the District, including those in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr, was therefore 285 made up as follows:—

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
Male		Female	Male		Female
145	...	117	12	...	11

The notification of tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Two deaths from Pulmonary and two deaths from Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis were registered, each giving a death rate of 1,000 of the population of 0.04.

The following table shows the cases of tuberculosis entered on the register, classified according to age and sex, during 1959.

Age Periods	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	Male		Female	Male		Female
0—1 year ...	—		—	...	—	—
1—2 years ...	—		—	...	—	—
2—5 „ ...	1		1	...	—	—
5—10 „ ...	1		1	...	—	—
10—15 „ ...	1		4	...	—	—
15—20 „ ...	5		—	...	—	—
20—25 „ ...	3		7	...	—	—
25—35 „ ...	9		10	...	—	1
35—45 „ ...	5		5	...	3	—
45—55 „ ...	4		1	...	—	—
55—65 „ ...	1		—	...	—	—
65—75 „	—		—	...	—	—
75 and over ...	1		—	...	—	—
TOTALS ...	31		29	...	3	1

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

Of the 285 cases on the register—7 were resident in caravans, and I strongly recommend the Housing Committee to favourably consider any applications for re-housing which may be made by caravan dwellers, particularly where there are young children in the families.

The number of tuberculosis cases (64) entered on the register is 1.41 per 1,000 of the population and is considerably higher than in the past.

This figure (1.41) for 1959 compares with: —

0.73 for 1949	...	1.20 for 1954
0.93 „ 1950	...	1.11 „ 1955
0.85 „ 1951	...	1.11 „ 1956
1.29 „ 1952	...	0.76 „ 1957
0.92 „ 1953	...	0.92 „ 1958

The average for this decade being 0.98.

The total number (285) on the register at 31/12/59 is, as can be expected, the highest ever recorded, and represents 6.30 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding figure for the County as a whole, at 31/12/58, was 9.8 per 1,000 of the population. As the sufferers from this disease appear to be more health conscious, and/or are better able financially to move from the denser populated neighbouring areas to the Aldridge Urban District, it may be anticipated the number on the register will increase disproportionately to the increase in population.

Dysentery

Five cases of dysentery were notified, each requiring repeated visits. 51 samples of faeces were obtained from these cases and from contacts and suspected cases, for bacteriological reports. This involved considerable time on the part of the staff.

Influenza Epidemic.

During February and March 1959, a widespread epidemic took place throughout the country and the Aldridge Urban District did not escape. Many of the inhabitants, including a large number of children, were affected and although most cases recovered three deaths were registered.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year. Five cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated.

FOOD HYGIENE.

The visiting of food premises was regularly carried out during 1959, and reports have been submitted monthly to the Health Committee. Considerable progress has been made towards raising the standard of the storage, handling and distribution of foods, to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

DEEP FROZEN IRISH STEAKETTES.

In January 1959 samples of two consignments of deep frozen Irish Steakettes imported from Ireland to Bristol were reported by the Medical Officer of Health, Bristol, as being contaminated by various food poisoning organisms. Quantities of these consignments were stocked within the Aldridge Urban District.

Representative samples of these consignments were taken and all the stock was withdrawn from sale by the firm concerned. Part of the stock had been despatched to another area, and the Chief Public Health Inspector of the area concerned was given all relevant information.

All food shops in the Aldridge Urban District were visited and checked re the stocking of the product, and the owners or occupiers of premises on which the product was found, were instructed how to proceed.

All neighbouring Authorities were made aware of what steps had been taken.

The Public Health Laboratory, Stafford, at first reported contamination of the steakettes with staphylococcus aureus, but later, also reported contamination with clostridium welchii in one other consignment.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health were sent all available information, and also the Medical Officer of Health, Bristol.

A Ministry of Health Medical Officer met and discussed the problem with the manufacturers, and subsequently the whole of the food was returned to London for re-packing and for altering the cooking time instructions on the packages.

The food poisoning hazard implied in the above investigations was apparently of great interest to the Ministry of Health and resulted in the publication of an article by a member of the Minister's Medical Staff in the official Monthly Bulletin of the Ministry of Health (October, 1959).

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, continues to be used to the satisfaction of all concerned. The same part-time attendant is employed and the arrangements appear to be satisfactory. There has been complete co-operation with the Police.

The heating of the Mortuary has been improved, to comply with the wishes of the visiting Pathologists.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

It is pleasing to know that the modern sewage disposal works, to replace the inadequate and obsolete works situated at Chester Road, Streetly, are well on the way to completion.

PRIVIES.

The number of privies now remaining throughout the district is 41; this is in a situation where a public sewer is not available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

The circumstances of one aged person from Aldridge were investigated and kept under supervision, over a period, until a bed in a suitable institution became available.

CARAVANS.

It would appear that the limited powers available to deal with the control of caravans are inadequate. Consequently very considerable inspectorial time has been necessary to exercise reasonable control over the constant and recurring cases of caravan dwellers.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT SURVEYS AND SESSIONS.

Until 31st August, 1959 weekly sessions were held at the Ambulance Station, Hatherton Road, Walsall as follows:—

Mondays	...	...	11.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
(except Bank Holidays)			1.45 p.m. to 3 p.m.
			3.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Since 31st August 1959 these sessions were altered to:—

Mondays	...	...	...	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon
				1.00 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Fridays	...	...	...	1.00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Cases of suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis resident within the Aldridge Urban District continue to be referred by General Practitioners, Industrial Medical Officers etc. to the above sessions and experience indicates that the X-Ray Unit is of greater value when the persons dealt with have been referred in this manner.

During 1959—6,825 persons (3,358 males and 3,467 females) were X-Rayed at the Walsall Sessions, and were assessed as follows:—

Tuberculosis —For supervision only	-	-	-	29 persons
For close Clinical supervision and or treatment	-	-	-	57 persons
Definitely diagnosed	-	-	-	56 persons

Other Chest Conditions—538 persons were revealed, and 210 of these were referred to a Clinic or Hospital.

Many residents from the Aldridge Urban District are dealt with at these Walsall Sessions. This service appears to be operating efficiently and effectively.

An X-Ray Unit also carried out a survey at the B.R.D. Company Aldridge from October 20th—28th, 1959. Employees from the B.R.D. Company, McKechnie Bros. and Birlec Co. Limited attended. Altogether 1,063 employees were X-Rayed (895 males and 168 females) and 30 were recalled for large films. Eleven cases of tuberculosis and 13 cases of non-tuberculous conditions were revealed. These findings indicate that this service is well worth while.

I am grateful to the Medical Director, Dr. L. A. McDowell for his co-operation and detailed reports.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the population for 1959 was most satisfactory, the corrected birth and death rates, the still birth rate and the infantile death rate all comparing more than favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole.

For the twelfth consecutive year no death resulted from pregnancy, child birth or abortion. This is most gratifying. The assistance given by the Housing Manager in the service of re-housing certain tuberculous families is much appreciated. During 1959 two such families were re-housed.

Every effort is being made by the Department to deal with the problems arising from atmospheric pollution, food hygiene and slum properties and the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector will soon be necessary in order to improve the supervision of these problems and to deal with all complaints and other routine work as efficiently and promptly as possible.

All members of the staff from the Chief Public Health Inspector downwards have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector has proved himself most competent and energetic in carrying out his duties.

I again desire to thank you, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also fellow Officers and Council staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1959)

CAUSES OF DEATH						Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	166	107
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	8	2
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	14	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	...	...	18	21
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	34	14
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
20. Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	18	11
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15	6
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	10	1
34. All Other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE							Male	Female
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

Total (Included in above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

LIVE BIRTHS

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	505	474
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	498	462
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	12

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Aldridge Urban District Council.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting this my second Annual Report since my appointment as Chief Public Health Inspector.

My Annual Report for the year ended 1958 was prefaced with a challenge, i.e., man's right to good wholesome food, clean air to breathe and good homes to live in. I have no hesitation in saying that this challenge has been accepted by the department; the work commenced and the many improvements in the environmental conditions of the populace of the district is beginning to take effect. This has only been achieved by the complete co-operation of all the food handlers and industrialists together with members of the staff, each playing a part in a quiet and efficient manner.

More detailed information is made under appropriate headings in the Report, but I feel it would be unjust not to enlarge somewhat on the more important aspects of our public health work as under: —

(a) Meat and Food Inspection.

100 per cent. meat inspection has been maintained at the three private slaughterhouses and during the latter part of the year work commenced on the formulation of the report required to be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act 1958

Complete co-operation was obtained with the Meat Traders and resulting from discussions one could assess at this very early stage that they were ready to fulfill their obligations under this very important new legislation.

(b) **Slum Clearance.**

Slow but steady progress has been made in regard to the clearance of those properties which are declared to be unfit for human habitation. This aspect of our duty has to some measure been retarded to allow for correct redevelopment plans for such areas to be redeveloped in accordance with the co-ordinated plan for the development of the Urban District as a whole.

(c) **Clearance of Unfit Properties.**

During the year the responsibility for the clearance of sites, both unfit dwellings and demolition of buildings for redevelopment was passed to this department to undertake and supervise.

(d) **Food Hygiene.**

Since the publication of the last Annual Report I am pleased to report that all food shops and factory canteens situate within the district have been inspected and the results achieved to date have been considerable. This has been due to the cooperation of food handlers and the staff in a united effort to eliminate as far as practicable the risk of contamination of foodstuffs.

I regret to have to report that little progress has been made in relation to the sale of foodstuffs from mobile vans. Legislation at present leaves a great deal to be desired to deal with this specific problem. However, I can report that all mobile shops operating within the district have been inspected and members of the staff have spent a great deal of time giving valuable information and suggestions to the owners of the vans, with the hope that the advice will be acted upon with an all round improvement.

One serious aspect to the all out drive to food hygiene in all its aspects is the removal and disposal of trade refuse from food premises. At the moment it would appear that the general principle of disposal of this trade refuse is by burning it in the yards of the premises, or alternatively disposing of it on any vacant land within the district. It has been apparent on several occasions that this trade refuse has been offering harbourage and breeding places for rats. I sincerely hope that in the not too distant future the regular collection of trade refuse will be undertaken by the Authority.

(e) **Clean Air Act, 1956.**
Smoke Control Areas.

The year 1959 enabled the department to gear itself to press forward with plans for the establishment of Smoke Control Areas within the district, and although satisfactory progress has been made the immensity of the task ahead has become more and more apparent.

The matter in relation to Public Health is urgent and I give my sympathy to the opinion expressed in this following extract from the editorial of a Daily Newspaper: —

“ The skies are blue. Fog is far away, but along comes a Ministry of Health report which deals with smoke. The report should not be overlooked. It suggests that, in smog, soot is the great killer. This is good news in a way, for soot can be cut down by extension of the **Smokeless Zone**. And now—when skies are blue, and fog is far away—now is the time to order these extensions.”

How very true these words are, especially now when it has been proved with growing evidence by the research of Dr. William Bradley and Dr. Alec Martin that there is a grave danger to health in the soot of coal smoke. Unfortunately, however, smoke control areas cannot be made overnight, the step by step implementation of a smoke control area is a cumbersome and slow business, owing to the long-winded and unwieldy machinery of the Clean Air Act, and even though it is the aim of the Aldridge Council to make the Urban District a huge Smoke Control Area, with the present legal machinery, this very essential state of affairs will take at least 20 years.

However, some of the work has been trimmed off this huge task because of the Council's policy of automatically considering all new development sites, when planning approval is given, as potential Smoke Control Areas, and even though only two of these areas have been submitted for the prior approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, by December 1959, by December 1960 at least nine new development areas should have received the Minister's approval.

The story is a little different with areas already developed. The first area of this type chosen by the Council to be a Smoke Control Area was Pheasey and Park Farm Estate, nearly fully developed, and when completed will contain over 3,000 houses.

In order to carry out their plans for this estate, the Council through the staff of their Public Health Department, have to follow the correct legal procedure.

Consequently the Pheasey and Park Farm Smoke Control Area by the end of December 1959, has reached a stage where it is nearly ready for submission to the Minister for prior approval. It is sincerely hoped, for the sake of public health, that before this area becomes fully operative as a Smoke Control Area the red tape of the legal machinery may be reduced and the words of the newspaper be a reality.

All factories within the district have been inspected and complete records of all steam raising plant have been compiled.

At the present moment there are only two industries causing concern, both of which are under the control of the Inspector of Alkali &c. Works. Very close liason exists between the Area Inspector and myself, and these two sources of pollution are continually being pressed to reduce the amount of pollution emanating from the respective stacks.

(f) Rodent Contol.

The number of complaints received during the year for advice and requests for the assistance of the Rodent Operative has considerably increased. This, I consider, to be attributable to two factors, one the considerable overall development by building projects throughout the district, inevitably causing disturbance of agricultural land, the other to the fact that the public are becoming more conscious to the menace of rodents and, as hitherto, feel no shame in seeking assistance. In some measure the cessation of Ministry Contracts has increased the work undertaken on farm lands and buildings. During the year a complaint was received in the department that a Coypu had been found and killed at Messrs. McKechnie Bros. factory at Middlemore Lane, Aldridge. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was informed and subsequently a representative visited the office to investigate the matter.

An inspection of land and canal bank from McKechnie Bros. to Hopley's Bridge, fields and ditches adjoining Dumblederry Lane and Stubbers Green, was carried out by the representative of the Ministry and myself. No evidence of coypu infestation was discovered. After all enquiries had been made it was discovered that the coypu had escaped from a local breeder.

(g) Insect Pests.

I am pleased to relate that due mainly to the vast improvements in the standards of housing, together with, the demolition of unfit properties the complaints of verminous premises has declined. On the other hand it is noted that there has been an increase in the number of complaints

received and advice sought on the extermination of general and garden insect pests. Advice has been readily given, and in cases of doubt specimens have been sent for identification purposes and information sought on eradication measures.

(h) **Public Health Propaganda.**

Due to the activity of the department in the many spheres of public health work, members of local organisations have been stimulated into broadening their knowledge in regard to the duties of the Public Health Inspector, with special emphasis on food hygiene and atmospheric pollution, and the services given by the Health Department.

During the year I have addressed many organisations, and by the use of films and slides I feel that this has fostered good relations between the public and the Health Department.

(i) **Additional Duties.**

This Authority is now responsible for the granting of Licences under the Theatres Act 1843 with respect to the performance of stage plays, and for cinematograph exhibitions under the Cinematograph Acts 1909 and 1952 and the Sunday Entertainment Act 1932. The work involved is undertaken by this department in close liaison and complete co-operation with the Staffordshire County Council Fire Brigade Fire Precautions Officers.

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	145
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	1,601
(2)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	...	93
(3)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	52
(4)	Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	27
---	----

3—Action Under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
--	---

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
--	--

(a) By Owners	Nil
----------------------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
---	-----

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	12
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	
--	--

(a) By Owners	12
----------------------	----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil
---	-----

(c) Proceedings under Sections 17, 23 and 42 of the Housing Act 1957:—

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	13
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	15
---	----

(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order	80
---	----

(4) Houses demolished on land acquired under Section 43 (a) of the Housing Act 1957	2
--	---

(5) Local Authority owned houses certified by Medical Officer of Health demolished by informal action	30
--	----

(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

SITUATION OF PROPERTIES DEALT WITH AS SHOWN IN THE ABOVE TABLES.

Individual Demolition Orders.

Individual Demolition Orders were made by the Authority on the following dwelling houses:—

144 and 146, Daw End Lane, Rushall.
 10, 11, 12, Little Common, Pelsall.
 22, 24, 26, Birmingham Road, Aldridge.
 8, Paradise Lane, Pelsall.
 8 and 10, Foundry Lane, Pelsall.
 123, and 125, Lichfield Road, Pelsall.

Houses Demolished.

Individual Demolition Orders:—

10, 11, 12, Little Common, Pelsall.
 2 and 4, Baker's Lane, Aldridge.
 1, Peakhouse Road, Great Barr.
 179 and 181, Norton Road, Pelsall.
 19, 20, 21, Victoria Road, Pelsall.
 Linley Bungalow, Middlemore Lane, Aldridge.
 15 and 71, New Street, Rushall.
 41, Station Road, Pelsall.

Compulsory Purchase Order:—

24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 48 and 50, Cross Street, Heath End.
 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, Walsall Road, Heath End.
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Alexandra Terrace, Heath End.
 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, Brewer Terrace, Heath End.
 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 14A, 15, 16, 17, 18, High Street, Pelsall.
 6 and 7, High Street, Pelsall—Compulsory Order and Section 43 (2) Housing Act 1957.

Compulsory Purchase Orders:—

5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37,
Park Road, Rushall.
6, 8, 10, Floyds Lane, Rushall.
380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 315, 287, 289, Barns Lane, Rushall.
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Church Road, Pelsall.

Ministry of Works “Arcon” Sites Informal Action:—

1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, Linley Road,
Rushall.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Hayward Road, Pelsall.
1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, Lodge Grove, Aldridge.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Food Premises Inspection and Supervision of:

No. of Food Shops and Food Preparing Rooms Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	125
No. of Food Vans Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	29
No. of Public Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	13
No. of Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	119
No. of Contraventions Found	...	...	...	...	...	672
No. of Notices Completed	...	...	...	...	...	49
No. of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	211
No. of Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	414

Inspections made of:—

Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	...	32
School Meal Centres	...	.....	...	...	...	2
Inspections Made re Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	170
Inspections Made re Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	4

Nature and Type of Improvements Provided to Food Premises During the Year.

Additional Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	7
Articles and Equipment Provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cleanliness—Floors	...	...	...	...	...	40
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	8
Clothing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	11
First-Aid Equipment	...	...	...	...	...	29

Hot Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Intervening Ventilated Space	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Personal Cleanliness Display Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Protection of Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Redecoration—Ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Refuse Bins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Soap, Nailbrushes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wash-hand Basins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
								—
								414
								—

Shops Act 1950.

No. of Shops Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
No. of Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of Contraventions Found	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Details of Samples Taken in Aldridge Urban District Under the Food and Drugs Act 1955, During 1959.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district, have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr. G. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

Milk :

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	11
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	11
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	2
					—
Total				...	31
					—

All milks were genuine.

General Food and Drugs.

Butter	Jam, Strawberry
Balmoral Roll	Jam, Raspberry
Barley Kernels	Jam, Bramble Seedless
Barley Sugar	Lemon Curd
Butter Crenkle Biscuits	Lemon Juice
Breakfast Jaffa Juice	Luncheon Meat
Barley	Lamb Tongues
Cream of Tomato Soup	Lemon Kali
Corned Beef	Margarine
Cleaned Mixed Fruit	Margarine 10% Butter
Cheese Spread	Marshmallows
Cheese & Celery Spread	Mint Sauce
Cheese & Tomato Spread	Minced Beef Loaf
Creamed Mushrooms	Mint & Aniseed Drops
Cream of Tartar	Mayonnaise
Chandy	Mixed Fruit
Cream Biscuits	Minced Pork in Jelly
Coconut Eclairs	Norway Shrimps
Christmas Pudding	Oman, containing Ham & Tongue
Cooking Fat	Orange Marmalade
Cream of Chicken Condensed Soup	Oxtail Soup
Cream Biscuits containing Blue Cheese & Poppy Seeds	Pork Sausages
Damsons in Syrup	Plain Flour
Diabetic Marmalade	Pork Pie
Fruit Pectin	Piping Jelly
Fig Roll	Puff Pastry-mix
Faggotts	Pork Luncheon Meat
Fruit Cocktail in Heavy Syrup	Processed Peas
Fruit Salad	Pickled Onions
Full Cream Condensed Milk unsweetened	Prunes in Heavy Syrup
Grapefruit in Heavy Syrup	Pickling Spice
Grapefruit in Syrup	Pure Malt Vinegar
Ground Nutmeg	Pilchards in Tomato
Garden Peas	Pineapple Cubes in Syrup
Glycerine & Lemon Drops	Romany Soup
Glucose Barley Sugar	Runner Beans
Ice Cream	Rhubarb
	Red Salmon
	"Ready Brek" Cereal
	Royal "Chiffon"

Self-raising Flour	Sage & Onion Stuffing
Semolina	Tea
Sardines in Olive Oil	Tomato Soup
Sweet Chutney Pickle	Turkey Soup
Salmon	Tenderising Salt
Sugar	Tomato Juice
Sliced Mangoes in Syrup	Vegetable Juices
Strawberries in Heavy Syrup	Vintage Marmalade
Solid Pack Apples	Vegemite
Sterilised Cream	Whisky
Stuffed Pork Roll	Gin
Steak & Dumplings with Gravy	Beer
TOTAL GENERAL SAMPLES	... 130

Incorrect Samples :

SOLID PACK APPLES.

Contained at least 1% of salt.
Normal salt content of apples is less than .005%.

Informal Sample.
Taken up with Packers.

RED SALMON.

Contains 88.9% of Salmon, instead of consisting almost entirely of Salmon.

Informal Sample.
No further Samples.
Taken up with Packers.

UN SOUND FOODS.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:—

BOVINE.

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Carcase with offal and organs ...	2	950	—
Head and tongue	2	44	—
Heart	3	12	8
Kidney	1	1	—
Liver and portions	37	584	4
Lungs and pleura	3	28	—
Lungs and portions	6	40	—
Lungs, trachea and oesophagus ...	9	86	—
Mesentery fat	—	8	—
Pleura membrane	—	—	8
Skirt and diaphragm	2	4	—
Skirt, pleura and peritoneum ...	1	1	8
Spleen	1	—	12
Tongue	1	4	—
Udder	5	48	—

PIGS.

Carcase, head pluck and offal ...	1	85	—
Head and Tongue	1	6	—
Heart	1	—	3
Liver and portions	9	16	8
Lungs and heart	1	3	—
Lungs and portions	9	9	—
Lungs, trachea and heart	3	9	8
Pluck	2	6	—

SHEEP.

Breast	2	5	—
Heart	3	—	9
Liver and portions	90	219	11
Lungs and portions	198	161	—
Lungs, heart and liver	1	5	—
Pluck	1	4	—
Ribs	—	1	—

FISH.

Cod fillets	—	105	—
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FROZEN

Roe	—	7	—
Steakettes	4 pkts.	2	8

TINS.

Apricots	9	13	6
Asparagus Tips	1	—	6½
Beans—Green	4	2	7½
„ In Tomato	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Beef—Minced Loaf	...	...	...	...	1	—	12
„ Corned	...	...	...	...	2	12	—
Carrotts	...	...	...	...	1	—	10½
Crab	...	...	...	...	1	—	7¾
Cream	...	...	...	...	2	—	10
Creamed Rice	...	...	...	...	2	—	15½
Grapefruit	...	...	...	...	7	7	12
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	2	1	7
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	1	1	15
Mandarin Oranges	...	...	...	...	8	5	8
Peaches	...	...	...	...	16	28	—
Pears	...	...	...	...	6	9	5
Peas	...	...	...	...	5	5	8
Pilchards	...	...	...	...	4	3	8
Pineapple	...	...	...	...	14	17	4
Pineapple Chunks	...	...	...	...	2	3	10
Prunes	...	...	...	...	3	1	8
Salmon, medium red	...	...	...	...	3	—	15
Sardines	...	...	...	...	1	—	4½
Shrimps peeled	...	...	...	...	1	—	3¾
Soups	...	...	...	...	2	1	10
Steak—Casserole	...	...	...	...	1	—	15
„ Stewed	...	...	...	...	1	—	7½
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	59	52	12
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	...	1	—	14
Milk—Evaporated	...	1½ pts.	...	...	2	—	—
„ Sweetened Skimmed	73⅛ pts.	...	...	...	39	—	—

CHOCOLATE.

Pearl Drops	1 Box	6	—
Fairy Drops	1 Box	6	—
New Krackets	—	2	—

TOTAL	...	74⅝ pts.	603	2,648	9½
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MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR
BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1959.

Designated	No. Submitted	CLEANLINESS		PHOSPHATASE		TURBIDITY		Submitted Biological	Found to contain tubercle bacilli
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail		
Tuberculin Tested	9	8	1	—	—	—	—	2†	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	95	63*	—	95	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	69	47*	—	69	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	55	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—
TOTALS	288	118	1	164	—	55	—	2	—

* The two samples submitted to the Biological Test were included in the number submitted to the cleanliness test.

† Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised ... 32
 Pasteurised ... 22 } samples void owing to the high atmospheric shade temperature.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	147	90	2	1,750	267
Number inspected	147	90	2	1,750	267
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER- CULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	57	40	—	204	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticercci ...	38.8%	44.4%	—	11.6%	9.7%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	7	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.04%	7.8%	—	—	0.37%
CYSTICERCOSIS:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

1. Licensed Premise.

I give below the results of bacteriological examinations of 8 Food Hygiene swabs and 1 sample of washing-up water taken from Licensed Premises.

	Colony count per utensil swab			E. Coli.
1. Scoop 	Under 100 cols.			Present in 1 ml. (Faecal type)
2. Plate containing fish cakes	„	„	„	Nil in 1 ml.
3. Ladle in open pan of broth	„	„	„	„ „ „
4. Preparation table ...	„	„	„	„ „ „
5. Drip tray beneath beer pump	„	„	„	„ „ „
6. Beer tap in bar 	„	„	„	„ „ „
7. Pint glass in bar 	„	„	„	„ „ „
8. Used beer pipe in cellar *A.S.B. (awaiting cleansing)	„	„	„	„ „ „
9. Washing up water (kitchen)	13,000 per ml.			Present in 1 ml. (Faecal type)

*A.S.B.—aeroic spore-bearing bacilli.

With the exception of Nos. 1, 8, and 9, the results may be interpreted as satisfactory from the hygienic point of view as no E. Coli have been isolated. A full investigation as to the reasons why samples 1, 8, and 9 were unsatisfactory was carried out, and advice given to eliminate the contamination at those points.

2. Ice Cream.

Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Ten of the samples were reported as satisfactory, falling within Grade 1.

One sample purchased from a small local firm manufacturing their own ice cream was reported as unsatisfactory and failed to pass the methylene blue reduction test and was placed in Grade 3. Detailed investigations were carried out into the manner of manufacture, and advice given to eliminate the possible sources of contamination. The owner eventually, on his own accord ceased to manufacture ice cream and decided to sell only a pre-packed product.

3. Ice Lollie.

One ice lollie manufactured within the district submitted for bacteriological examination was reported as satisfactory.

4. Deep Frozen Irish Steakettes.

120 samples from two consignments in November and December of deep frozen Irish Steakettes from a local depot were submitted for bacteriological examination.

From 77 samples, coagulase-positive staphylococcus aureus was isolated.

From 9 samples heat resistant clostridium welchii were isolated.

No organisms of the salmonella or shigella groups were isolated.

Direct counts of three random samples yielded not less than 1×10^8 viable units.

Due to the unsatisfactory condition of this product, and after discussions carried out between the Ministry of Health and the manufacturers, this product was withdrawn from sale and returned to the manufacturers for alteration in the labelling and in the cooking time factor.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

One of the major problems of the Urban District is the disposal of trade refuse from shops and the many new industries situated in the district.

Unfortunately, the Council do not undertake the removal of this type of refuse, consequently traders and industrialists are left with the problem of disposal.

In many instances the easy way out is tried and abortive attempts made at burning waste material, which is difficult to burn even under the best furnace conditions, in the most primitive of incinerators with the most appalling results.

Because of the nature of this problem advice has been sought from the Public Health Department on a number of occasions and there has been an increasing demand for a solution. Consequently a great deal of investigation has been carried out in the various means of incineration of waste products.

- (a) Incinerator incorporating a catalytic chamber.
- (b) A multi-fuel incinerator incorporating a small oil burner at the base of the chimney.

As a result of these trials at least three major firms are going ahead with the installation of new incinerators, and there is the promise of more industries showing a great deal of interest. It is sincerely hoped that their promise will be fulfilled and another step forward taken in the double problem concerning the disposal of waste material and the reduction of atmospheric pollution.

Routine Inspections of Combustion Equipment in Industry:—

Furnaces (electric and oil fired muffle)	6
Incinerators	5
Oil fired boilers	27
Coal fired boilers	13
Coke fired stoves and boilers	21
Cupolas	2

Complaints investigated during the year can be classified mainly in the following groups: —

- (a) From wood waste incineration causing nuisance from grit—plans under way for installation of new means of incineration with the aid of catalytic elements.
- (b) Grit nuisance from open-ended cupolas—plans under way for means of grit arrestation.
- (c) Black smoke from hand fired boilers. Change of fuel along with new firing installations and technique successful in eliminating the problems.
- (d) Smuts from oil fired installations—advice re chimney insulation.

FACTORIES ACT,

Number of factories on register	124
Number of visits made	71

Sanitary Accommodation in Factories—Dealt With.

No. of written notices served	26
No. of defects	32
Insufficient	4
No. of notices complied with	5

Visits Made—Public Health Inspections.

Accumulations	31
Aged Persons	10
Animals	72
Atmospheric Pollution	180
Brook Course Pollution	29
Cesspools	89
Combustion Plant	74

Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	485
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	613
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	...	...	...	452
Food Sampling	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Housing—Public Health Act—							
				Informal Repairs	...	...	196
				Statutory	...	...	35
	Housing Act—			Informal Repairs	...	...	44
				Statutory	...	...	51
	Demolition—			Informal	...	...	70
				Statutory	...	...	152
	Clearance Areas	...	...	...	...	...	408
	Rent Act	...	...	...	...	...	63
	Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Industrial Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Insects	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Milk Crates on Highways	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Rats and Mice (by Public Health Inspectors)	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
School Meal Centres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sewer Conversion	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops (Shops Act)	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Slaughterhouses Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke Control Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Theatre Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Trade Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/>
							4,566
							<hr/>

Complaints.

Complaints received at the Health Department and dealt with: —

Drainage, House Defects, Nuisances, etc.	172
Defective Dustbins	459
Rats and Mice Infestation	182
	<hr/>
	813
	<hr/>

Notices Dealt With During the Year.

	Notices Served	Notices Completed	Other Notices Superseded or Rescinded
Informal	318	225	10
Statutory	106	96	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	424	321	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Nature and Number of Structural Defects Dealt with in Houses: Together with Nuisances and Other Matters.

House Defects :

House Roofs	11
Floors	6
Walls, Plaster	15
Ceilings, Plaster	9
Windows, Sashcords	5
Windows Defective	8
Doors	3
Chimneys	4
Exterior House Wall, Pointing	6
Rising Dampness	3
Penetrating Dampness	1
Sinks	3

Closet Accommodation Defects :

Water Closet Compartment Repair	5
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Drainage Defects :

Defects	23
Eavesgutters	4
Downspouts	3
Sink Waste	2
Yard Surface	1

Miscellaneous :

Refuse Accumulations	3
Water Service Installation	1
Cesspools	5

POLLUTION OF BROOK COURSE FORD BROOK PELSALL AND RUSHALL.

Subsequent to the receipt of complaints of obnoxious odours emanating from this brook course a complete investigation was carried out. The entire length of the course was inspected from the Aldridge Urban District Council boundary in Rushall to the boundary between this Council and Brownhills Urban District Council in Pelsall, and from a point of bifurcation in Rushall to Barns Lane, Rushall. This water course receives the effluents from the Sewage Works of this Authority and Brownhills Urban District Council. Inspection revealed that the banks were overgrown with vegetation, the flow sluggish and ponding in places, there was a considerable amount of sedimented matter present which was continually breaking away and flowing down the stream, the water was dirty and obnoxious odours were emanating therefrom.

The Director of the Bacteriological Laboratory, Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford, was contacted with a view to submitting swabs from the brook course for bacteriological examination.

Every possible assistance was received from the Director in this work and the following results of the examination of the swabs is reported: —

Date of Collection.	Point where Sample Taken	Result of Examination (Cultures)
13.8.59	Underneath Bridge at junction of Vicarage Road and Fordbrook Lane, Pelsall.	Salmonella typhi-murium. Salmonella brandenburg. Salmonella tennessee.
	Brook course, Pelsall Lane, Rushall, 150 yards downstream from bridge.	Salmonella paratyphi B phage type 3a1 isolated.
	Brook course rear of 106, Barns Lane, Rushall, 300 yards below discharge of effluent from Barns Lane Works.	Salmonella paratyphi B and salmonella typhi-murium isolated.
19.8.59	Downstream from bridge, Pelsall Lane	Salmonella paratyphi B and salmonella typhi-murium isolated.
	Rear of Barns Lane.	Salmonella paratyphi B. Salmonella brandenburg and salmonella saint paul.
24.8.59	Bridge opposite Pelsall Station. Station Road, Pelsall.	Salmonella typhi-murium and salmonella newport.
	Rear of Barns Lane.	Salmonella typhi-murium.
7.9.59	Barns Lane Sewage Works, Humus Tank, Old Works.	Salmonella paratyphi B isolated.
	Barns Lane Sewage Works Humus Tank. Effluent, New Works.	No salmonella isolated.
	Brook course leaving Stubbers Green Pool (sewage).	Salmonella typhi-murium isolated.
12.11.59	Rear of 106 Barns Lane, Rushall.	Salmonella paratyphi B isolated.
	Rear of Pelsall Lane C.P. School, Rushall.	Salmonella paratyphi B isolated.
	Rear of Pelsall Station.	No salmonella isolated.

As a result of the adverse bacteriological reports a further inspection of the Sewage Disposal Works and the Brook Course was carried out by the appropriate officers and members of the Health Committee. It was decided as a matter of urgency that a joint meeting

between members and officers of this Authority should meet members and officers of the Brownhills Urban District Council to discuss the whole project of pollution. I, for myself, having full regard to the amount of pollution gaining access to the brook course, together with ease of access afforded to children, would like to see the whole of the water course culverted.

Water Supply.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closet provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and a privy in such areas where sewers are not available.

In order to eliminate this outmoded type of sanitary accommodation the Council have agreed to financially assist owners desirous of converting pail and privy accommodation to water closets with appropriate drainage to new cesspools.

Conversions to seven dwelling houses were carried out during the year.

It is anticipated that additional conversions will be carried out in the near future.

Number of privies remaining in the district ...	1
Number of pails remaining in the district ...	39

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. J. Mason, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:—

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

First stage of Eastern Area Sewerage Scheme nearing completion.

Second stage details being proposed by the Consulting Engineers and work should be commenced in the summer of 1960.

Sewage Disposal Works at Little Aston (Joint Scheme) will be substantially completed by the autumn of 1960.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Provision is being made in 1960/61 estimates for the cleansing of Fordbrook jointly with the Brownhills Urban District Council.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	256
(b) By Other Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise		...	...	804

NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

(a) By Local Authority	...	...	...	363
(b) By Other Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(c) By Private Enterprise		...	...	517

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK

(1st April 1959 to 31st December 1959).

In accordance with Circular PDP/1959/1 of the 9th March, 1959, this report covers a period of nine months so that subsequent annual reports may be rendered for the calendar years instead of the financial years.

One man is employed part-time as rodent operative. The time spent on rodent work during the 9 months ending 31st December, 1959, has been equivalent to 66% of the full working time of one man.

PREMISES INSPECTED

(To confirm infestation or otherwise).

					Totals Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	...	167	110	57
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	30	26	4
Council Premises	...	...	...	...	10	8	2
					207	144	63

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF INFESTED PREMISES.

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	768
Business Premises	... ..	185
Council Premises	... ..	122
		<hr/>
		1,075
		<hr/>

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 SECTION 75(1).

Dustbins supplied by Council, informally, on request	162
Dustbins supplied by Council on request after service of Statutory Notice	20
Dustbins supplied by Council in default of Statutory Notice	2
Dustbins supplied to Council properties	173
Dustbins supplied by occupiers and/or owners voluntarily after service of Statutory Notice ...	63
	<hr/>
	420
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I sincerely hope that this report will give some indication of the field of activity undertaken by the department in promoting the environmental health of the community.

May I take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and support in the many projects and problems that I have had the honour to present. I would also like to say thank you to the Clerk of the Council, Engineer and Surveyor, Treasurer, Housing Manager and members of their respective staffs for all the help and co-operation I have received from them.

I would particularly like to thank Dr. V. E. Milne, Medical Officer of Health for the valuable assistance and co-operation received and for discussions on the many complex problems that have had to be dealt with during the year.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute of the staff for their patient, courteous, and helpful outlook and co-operation in the conduct of their duties.

Your obedient servant,

H. C. PERKINS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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